

1. The method of reducing nosocomial infections of a mammalian patient who is unwilling or unable to self-apply a disinfectant, comprising applying a liquid disinfectant to the patient's mucosa by spraying the disinfectant or by use of a swab carrying the disinfectant.
- 5 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said liquid disinfectant is applied by spraying.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said liquid disinfectant is applied by use of a swab carrying the disinfectant.
- 10 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said liquid disinfectant comprises a chlorhexadine derivative.
5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said derivative is chlorhexadine gluconate.
- 15 6. The use of chlohexadine gluconate in formulating a disinfectant for use according to the method of Claim 1.